

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A yoke for use in a railway locomotive draft gear assembly,  
the yoke comprising:  
a front wall, a back wall, a top strap extending from the front wall to the back wall, a bottom strap extending from the front wall to the back wall,  
the front wall comprising two side sections, each side section extending vertically between the top strap and the bottom strap, the front wall further comprising a bottom section, a center section and a top section, each of the bottom, center and the top sections having a convex edge and extending laterally between the two side sections,  
the top strap of reduced width extending from the front wall to the back wall,  
the bottom strap of reduced width extending from the front wall to the back wall,  
and the back wall includes at least one indented section of reduced thickness extending from near the top strap to near the bottom strap.
2. The yoke of claim 1 further comprising,  
an indented area of reduced thickness in the top strap  
and an indented area of reduced thickness in the bottom strap.
3. The yoke of claim 1,  
wherein the back wall includes an inside facing surface forming a bearing area.
4. The yoke of claim 1,

wherein the width of the top strap is about 8.25 inches,

the width of the bottom strap is about 8.25 inches

and the width of the back wall is about 8.25 inches.

5. A draft gear assembly for use in a railway locomotive coupling assembly,

the draft gear assembly comprising:

a yoke comprising:

a front wall, a back wall, a top strap extending from the front wall to the back wall, a bottom strap extending from the front wall to the back wall,

the front wall comprising two side sections, each side section extending vertically between the top strap and the bottom strap, the front wall further comprising a bottom section, a center section and a top section, each of the bottom, center and the top sections having a laterally convex shape and extending laterally between the two side sections,

the top strap of reduced width extending from the front wall to the back wall,

the bottom strap of reduced width extending from the front wall to the back wall,

and the back wall includes at least one indented section of reduced thickness extending from near the top strap to near the bottom strap,

a front coupler follower positioned between the top strap and the bottom strap and adjacent an internal surface of the front wall,

a rear coupler follower positioned between the top strap and the bottom strap and adjacent an internal surface of the back wall,

and a resilient draft gear located between the front and rear coupler followers.

6. The draft gear assembly of claim 5,  
wherein the yoke top strap includes an indented area of reduced thickness,  
and the yoke bottom strap includes an indented area of reduced thickness.
7. The draft gear assembly of claim 5,  
wherein an inside facing surface of the back wall forms a bearing area.
8. The draft gear assembly of claim 5,  
wherein the width of the top strap is about 8.25 inches,  
the width of the bottom strap is about 8.25 inches  
and the width of the back wall is about 8.25 inches.
9. The draft gear assembly by claim 5,  
wherein the front coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular  
structure having a top edge, a bottom edge, two laterally spaced side edges, a front  
face and rear face,  
and each side edge having a side support structure extending longitudinally  
from the rear face, each side edge support structure having a lightener opening  
therein.
10. The draft gear assembly of claim 5,  
wherein the front coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular  
structure having a top edge, a bottom edge and two laterally spaced side edges,

and a center support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, the center support structure having lightener areas at each corner.

11. The draft gear assembly of claim 5,

wherein the rear coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular structure having a top edge, a bottom edge, two laterally spaced side edges, a front face and a rear face,

and each side edge having a side support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, each side edge support structure having a lightener opening therein.

12. The draft gear assembly of claim 5,

wherein the rear coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular structure having a top edge,

a bottom edge and two laterally spaced side edges,

and a center support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, the center support structure having lightener areas at each corner.

13. A yoke for use in a railway draft gear assembly,

the yoke comprising:

a front wall, a back wall, a top strap extending from the front wall to the back wall, a bottom strap extending from the front wall to the back wall,

the front wall comprising two side sections, each side section extending vertically between the top strap and the bottom strap, the front wall further

comprising a bottom section and a top section, each of the bottom and top sections having a convex edge and extending laterally between the two side sections,

the top strap having a taper to a reduced width at the back wall,

the bottom strap having a taper to a reduced width at the back wall,

the back wall being of a width similar to the width of the top strap.

14. The yoke of claim 13,

wherein the back wall includes an indented section of reduced thickness extending from near the top strap to near the bottom strap.

15. The yoke of claim 13,

wherein the top strap includes an indented area of reduced thickness, and the bottom strap includes an indented area of reduced thickness.

16. The yoke of claim 13,

wherein the front wall includes a center section having a convex edge and extending laterally between the two side sections.

17. The yoke of claim 13,

wherein the back wall includes an inside facing surface forming a bearing area.

18. A yoke for use in a railway locomotive draft gear assembly,

the yoke comprising:

a front wall, a back wall, a top strap extending from the front wall to the back wall, a bottom strap extending from the front wall to the back wall,

the front wall comprising two side sections, each side section extending vertically between the top strap and the bottom strap, the front wall further comprising a bottom section, and a top section, each of the bottom and the top sections having a convex edge and extending laterally between the two side sections,

the top strap having a taper to a reduced width at the back wall,

the bottom strap having a taper to a reduced width at the back wall,

a front coupler follower positioned between the top strap and the bottom strap and adjacent an internal surface of the front wall,

a rear coupler follower positioned between the top strap and the bottom strap and adjacent an internal surface of the back wall,

and a resilient draft gear located between the front and rear coupler followers.

19. The draft gear assembly of claim 18,

wherein the yoke top strap includes an indented area of reduced thickness, and the yoke bottom strap includes an indented area of reduced thickness.

20. The draft gear assembly by claim 18,

wherein the front coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular structure having a top edge, a bottom edge, two laterally spaced side edges, a front face and rear face,

and each side edge having a side support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, each side edge support structure having a lightener opening therein.

21. The draft gear assembly of claim 18,

wherein the front coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular structure having a top edge, a bottom edge and two laterally spaced side edges, and a center support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, the center support structure having lightener areas at each corner.

22. The draft gear assembly of claim 18,

wherein the rear coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular structure having a top edge, a bottom edge, two laterally spaced side edges, a front face and a rear face,

and each side edge having a side support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, each side edge support structure having a lightener opening therein.

23. The draft gear assembly of claim 18,

wherein the rear coupler follower comprises a generally rectangular structure having a top edge,

a bottom edge and two laterally spaced side edges,

and a center support structure extending longitudinally from the rear face, the center support structure having lightener areas at each corner.

24. The draft gear assembly of claim 18,

wherein the back wall of the yoke includes an indented section of reduced thickness extending from near the top strap to near the bottom strap.

25. The draft gear assembly of claim 18,

wherein the front wall of the yoke includes a center section having a convex edge and extending laterally between the two side sections.